



Building With Nature is Annual Retreat Theme

Fall brings with it a stirring that is tied to our years of returning to school. We tend to make changes, sign up for classes, and get serious about a topic that has eluded us. During this time, we also tend to look for inspiration and enrichment in our lives as leaders and participants in the sustainable building movement. So this is the perfect time of year for the **GUILD RETREAT!**

This year's Annual Member Retreat will be **October 21st - 24th** at Pilgrim Firs Conference Center outside Port Orchard, Washington. We are starting earlier this year, on Thursday afternoon for the Board and Chapter Presidents meeting, and plan on three full days of fun, learning, and camaraderie in a natural setting.

Through the whole weekend, the theme "*Building With Nature*" will emphasize the concept of the natural world as a teacher and provider. We are bringing in top-notch sustainability leaders like **Dayna Baumeister** of the Biomimicry Guild, **Mike Nelson** of Western Sun, and **Ross Chapin** of The Cottage Company to speak. Add in other fine presenters like **Kelly Lerner**, **Dominique Blanchet**, **Mike O'Brien**, **Matthew Cacho**, and **Patrick Carey** - and you have a great lineup! Come get enriched and inspired by these folks!



So many look forward to this event, which begins this year on Thursday evening with a Board Reception and opening night campfire. Friday morning is open for relaxation on and around the lake, where you can walk the trails and paddle a canoe, and even take

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The Village Lives Tour

We are excited to announce that community activist Mark Lakeman will be the featured speaker for our second annual speaking tour, scheduled for September 15 thru 23, 2004. Lakeman, who is a founder of the City Repair Project in Portland, Oregon, will discuss his organization's "The Village Lives" program in six northwest communities, with additional workshops in three of the cities.

The Village Lives program calls upon participants to imagine a new urban vitality. It promotes urban space renewal through citizen-led public art, permaculture, community building, transformative space, and ecological design.

"Built for commerce and growth, most American towns lack the community vitality and cultural richness of cities abroad", Lakeman says. "However, City Repair Project has begun to bring these qualities to Portland by following a simple and effective philosophy: Build places where community can happen, right in the hearts of our neighborhoods."

City Repair's Intersection Repair project, Lakeman explains, helps neighborhoods create special places on their own street corners. Citizens re-imagine and re-build their own common areas to reflect a more village like neighborhood, by integrating architecture, activism, urban planning, anthropology, community development, public art, permaculture, ecological design, and natural building techniques. In essence, it brings the physical elements of a village to the heart of a town's neighborhoods for a greater sense of culture, unity, and purpose.

Since the Portland City Council got behind the project in 2000, the ideas of The Village Lives program have spread throughout Portland and beyond. "We're delighted to be able to present Mark Lakeman and the teachings of the City Repair Project as the headline of our 2004 speaker tour", says Bruce Millard, president of the Guild. "Mark's organization not only espouses many of the principles on which the Northwest Eco Building Guild itself was founded, but more importantly, gives life to these briefs by bringing them directly to our communities with positive tangible results. We hope Mark's presentation will be an inspiration to groups and

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a refreshing dip if you are hearty enough. Then, back by popular demand, the activity schedule begins Friday afternoon with a guided **tour of Islandwood Center on Bainbridge Island** (www.islandwood.com). Carpools will leave Pilgrim Firs at Noon for a three-hour tour of this state of the art natural education facility. We will return at 5:00, in time for dinner and conversation into the night.



New this year is a discussion panel, with two focal points: "Taking it to the Streets", and "Funding Members Non Profit Projects". Come partake in a lively interactive conversation, and help draw a roadmap of where we want to put our energy as this decade unfolds. We will still have one of the most popular sessions of past retreats: the Saturday

Night Open Mike Slideshow, where members have the opportunity to show 10 slides of their work in 10 minutes. It's a fun way to see what the individual members of our organization have been doing.

If you have been to a Guild retreat before, you will probably recognize a few changes as a result of the questionnaire given to last year's retreat attendees. Another of these is the choice of two registration options being offered this year. Option A is for Thursday evening thru Sunday, and Option B is for Friday evening thru Sunday. The Islandwood tour can be included with either option for an additional \$5 entry fee.

The early registration deadline is September 17, and the standard pricing deadline is two weeks prior to the event on October 8. You can either register on our web site at www.ecobuilding.org, or call Nancy Brooking at 503-667-9479. You must be a member to attend, but if you aren't a member yet, you can join at the same time you register.

The September 17th early registration discount deadline is almost here!
Don't miss out - register NOW and receive a \$25 discount!

2004 Annual Guild Retreat Schedule

Thursday, Oct. 21

- 1:00 - 5:30 EBG Regional Board & Chapter Presidents Meeting
- 3:00 - 5:30 Early Guild Member Registration Check In, Auction sets up
- 5:30 - 6:30 Dinner, Silent Auction Opens

Friday, Oct. 22

- 8:00 - 8:45 Breakfast
- 9:00 - 11:00 EBG Regional Board & Chapter Presidents Meeting
- 11:30 - 12:00 Lunch
- 12:00 - 5:00 Islandwood Center Tour (1:00-4:00)
- 3:00 - 5:30 On-going Registration Check In
- 5:30 - 6:30 Dinner, Silent Auction
- 7:00 - 10:00 Reception

Saturday, Oct. 23

- 8:00 - 8:45 Breakfast
- 9:00 - 9:30 President's Welcome
- 9:30 - 11:00 Keynote - Biomimicry with Dayna Baumeister
- 11:15- 11:45 Board and Chapter Reports

Saturday, Oct. 23 (continued)

- 12:00 - 1:15 Lunch
- 1:15 - 2:30 Sessions A & B - Green Remodeling & Green in Europe
- 2:45 - 4:00 Sessions A & B - Pocket Neighborhoods & Global Warming
- 4:15 - 5:30 Panel Discussion - "Guild - What is Next?"
- 5:30 - 6:30 Dinner, Silent Auction
- 7:00 - 10:00 Open Mike Slideshow of Members' Projects - 10 slides / 10 minutes

Sunday, Oct. 24

- 8:00 - 8:45 Breakfast
- 9:00 - 10:15 Speaker - Solar Today with Mike Nelson
- 10:30 - 11:45 Session A & B - Green Activism & Green Roof Update
- 10:30 - 11:45 Clay Plaster Workshop w/ Kelly Lerner (Pre-registration required)
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 - 2:00 Closing Circle

The Village Lives... *continued from page 1*

individuals throughout the Northwest to take action toward improving their communities.”

Lakeman will share the story of City Repair and its larger impact for social and ecological justice at the following locations. Please contact local Guild representatives for more detailed information on his presentations in these areas.

Seattle, WA 15, 16, 19
Sage Saskill sage@livingshealter.com

Port Townsend, WA 17, 18
Bruce Glenn terrasol@cablespeed.com

Ellensburg, WA 20
George Bottcher earth@elltel.net

Spokane, WA 21, 22
Deborah Warner sunrisedesign@icehouse.net

Sandpoint, ID 22
Joyce Jowdy of PFOS jade@surf1.ws

Missoula, MT 23
Lara Poulton larap@ctagroup.com

About Mark Lakeman and City Repair

Mark Lakeman is a founder of the City Repair Project in Portland, Oregon. City Repair is a multi-disciplinary, non-profit organization, which works with place-based communities to creatively recreate the infrastructure of the public commons where people live. Whether converting street intersections into public squares, or organizing other forms of permanent or ephemeral place interventions, City Repair is effectively engaging citizens in the reinvention of the public landscape. All of these projects are ecological in emphasis, using natural building and permaculture techniques.



After working for several years in the 1980's as a lead designer of large scale corporate projects, in the 1990's Mark embarked on a series of cultural immersion projects with indigenous societies in order to derive placemaking patterns which could be applied to urban settings in the United States. These patterns include broad participation, local

ownership, transference of authority to local populations, creative expression in planned and unplanned processes, and social capital as the primary economic engine of change.

Mark is the principal of Communitecture, a private design firm specializing in ecological building and planning projects at many scales. He also sits on the Board of Directors of Southeast Uplift, Portland's proactive neighborhood coalition that is undertaking

numerous initiatives to remake the civic landscape.



The multi-disciplinary nature of the City Repair Project defies categorization. It is a model for social and ecological restoration operating in a landscape characterized by isolation and compartmentalization. The project takes Fritjof Copra's 'Tipping Point' as a model for paradigm change by

intentionally focusing upon intersections in space and time. We are directly reclaiming those intersection points and opening the field for what automatically happens when people reunite with their Place: everything. The projects restate the same themes over and over, but the forms change and grow. Each project questions convention, and reinvents it as we restate the principles of creative community involvement and ownership, working to rejoin people to time and space as a place for sustainable, creative, localized culture.

The City Repair Project is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and is powered by volunteer effort with the support of local schools and government, and dozens of local businesses and organizations. Projects include the T-Horse mobile community teahouse; the annual Earth Day Celebration of Localization; Intersection Repair Projects; the Natural and Village Building Convergences and other placemaking projects.

For more information, visit their website at www.cityrepair.org.

The Building Burned—the Business Didn't!

As you may have heard, Seattle's Environmental Home Center (EHC), suffered a loss in August. The nation's first sustainable building supplier's offices, showroom, and main warehouse were destroyed in a fire August 11. Fortunately, all of EHC's inventory and sales data was recovered after the fire, so customers will have access to this information. The business is currently finalizing a temporary showroom and office location to open sometime soon. Additionally, two of the company's three warehouses were left intact so certain stock is currently available.

Green Pages Resource Guide Stock Lost in Fire

Unfortunately, the entire stock of The Green Pages, distributed by the Northwest Eco-Building Guild, was burned in the EHC fire. The company was donating warehouse space to us, and all 5,000 copies were lost. As we grappled with how to finance reprinting costs, EHC approached us with an amazing offer. "There's been an outpouring of support from our SODO neighbors, customers and the green building industry here in the Pacific Northwest", noted Tim Taylor, CEO. "Many people have generously offered us financial assistance. To benefit the local green building community, we suggest that financial donations be sent checks directly to the EcoBuilding Guild to replace the 5,000 copies of The Green Pages that were lost in the fire."

This generosity reflects the heart of the green

building community, and the Guild is grateful to Tim and Matt Freeman-Gleason for their aid to our organization in their own time of need. If you wish to join in this effort, please make checks payable to NW EcoBuilding Guild and send to: NW EcoBuilding guild, P.O. Box 58530, Seattle, WA 98138-1530, Attn: EHC fire/green pages. Donations can also be made with a credit card; contact membership@ecobuilding.org for details.

EHC Updates on Website

As updated information becomes available, such as a new temporary showroom location and progress toward rebuilding, it will be posted on the company website at www.environmentalhomecenter.com. Some products will be available for order and direct ship to customers or to a distributor location. Customers who want to place an order can call the main number at 206-682-7332.

About Environmental Home Center

Founded in 1992, Environmental Home Center offers sustainably made building and finish materials that protect health, perform well and look stylish, but don't necessarily cost more than conventional products. Environmental Home Center sells through a showroom in Seattle and operates a call center and outside sales team that respond to customers in all 50 states. Products include low-toxic paints & finishes, wool and plant-fiber carpets, sustainably harvested wood products including flooring and cabinets, true linoleum, water and air filters, energy-efficient insulation and people-friendly cleaning supplies.

Ants Marching *by Andy McConnell*

When I let my dirty dishes stack up for too long, my kitchen becomes a metropolis as hundreds of ants bustle around, cleaning my dishes for me. I usually spray them down with peppermint oil and water while I wash the pile of dishes. As their tiny carapases slowly drag across the misted counter-top, I recall a clan of roving army ants I encountered while deep in the Ecuadorian Oriente, in a Haourani cooking shelter.

The shelter, an arched A-frame thatched with palm fronds was a haven of calm amidst the din of the rainforest surrounding it. The wood-smoke darkened walls blocked the afternoon sun. A group of seven Haourani sat around an open fire, occasionally shifting portions of the caiman they were cooking. A toddler aimlessly hacked at the dirt floor with a rusty machete. A small monkey blinked and watched sadly, its hand tethered to a chunk of heavy wood. The smoke filled air surged with the sound of insects, birds, and conversation.

Suddenly, the Haouani stood up, gathered the toddler and what food was not on the fire and casually walked to the other end of the shelter as thousands upon thousands of army ants (*Eciton burchelli*) began to swarm the shelter. This variety of ant roves the rainforest, attacking and consuming insects, small prey, and carrion found on the forest floor.

Following them, antbirds consume insects that escape the wave of ants. Beyond the birds, many other species follow the ant clan: a type of butterfly that thrives on the droppings of the antbirds; mimic ants that can't hunt but hide amongst and eat with the army ants; parasitic insects that lay their tiny eggs in the backs of the ants and other insects that find and remove the eggs as a source of food, and so on and on – an intricate pod of mutualistic, comensual, and parasitic relationships moving through the forest like a band of wild gypsies.

Ants Marching *(continued from page 4)*

Within 45 minutes, the ants had finished stripping the building of any unwary vermin and insects – spic and span. The visiting ants were only one aspect of how incredibly sustainably designed the Haourani cooking shelter was. Left unused, it would disappear into the rainforest ecosystem in a matter of years.

Returning home, I felt a newfound appreciation for the sacred landscape beneath my sink. But, if using peppermint oil and water (instead of some less inert cleanser) to repel ants in my kitchen is progress toward sustainability, I have a long way to go.

Calendar of Events

Recurring Events and Opportunities

Habitat for Humanity is building a **straw bale** house in Ellensburg and is accepting additional volunteers every Saturday morning. If you are interested in learning how to construct a straw bale house, this is a good and inexpensive way to learn. Call first for volunteering times at 509-962-5058. Located at the end of Tamarack Lane, south of Mountain View Park, Ellensburg.

Free Blower Door DVD/VHS Available. Interested in blower door testing but don't know how it works? Trying to describe the process to a client but they want more details? The City of Issaquah, with help from Dan Wildenhaus of Atmosphere, Inc., recently completed a 22-minute video on the hows and whys of blower door testing. As an added bonus, the video also addresses proper shell sealing, showing points that are frequently forgotten. Available in DVD or VHS, by calling 425-837-3448, or emailing bradl@ci.issaquah.wa.us.

"Women on Building" Radio program

Third Wednesdays, monthly –10AM-Noon Hosted by Charmaine Taylor, Eugene Chapter member. Listen Online at www.KMUD.org, and call in toll free to discuss your topic. K-MUD 88.3 Redway, CA

Traveling Recycling Trailer

Kittitas County Solid Waste Department has a new that can come to your convention, fair, conference and community event. This service is provided for free with advance reservations. Please call (509) 962-7542 or toll free from Upper County at 674-2584, press (4) and then (3).

September

September 15 through 23 – Mark Lakeman tour starting in Seattle, WA and ending in Missoula, MT. See article this issue for schedule and contact information.

September 18 in Portland, OR – Build it Green! 2004 Home Tour and Information Fair. Portland's annual tour of green homes, featuring 20 homes this year. Followed by an information fair at Environmental Building Supplies. See www.ecotrust.org/big/ for details and registration.

September 18 & 19 in Portland, OR – Cob Oven Workshop with Kiko Denzer and Hannah Field. A hands-on review of all you need to know to build a beautiful earthen oven equal to the fancy Italian \$4,000 model, but dirt cheap, and easy as mud pies! Kids love to help. 9 am to 5 pm, lunch and snacks included. Cost: \$175, \$50 deposit holds your place; full advance payment earns you a 20% discount. Send check or money order payable to K. Denzer to: Kiko Denzer POB 576 Blodgett, OR 97326. 541-438-4300 handiko@cmug.com

September 23: Rainwater Harvest Conference for builders, designers, installers, architects, and homeowners. 9:30am-4:15pm at the Seattle Center. See www.engr.washington.edu/epp/arcsa

September 23, 24, 25, & 26 – Straw Bale workshop on Camano Island, WA. Contact Living Shelter at 425-427-8643 or info@livingshelter.com for more information and registration.

September 25 & 26 from 9:00 am on - **Raising the Roof** at Serendipity Farm over our **cob cookhouse**. Volunteers will be warmly welcomed, and lunch will be provided. Contact event organizers Mary Ann Dow & Bruce Carter at 360-394-1739 for more info and registration. www.serendipityfarm.org

September 26 – Green Roof Workshop in SE Portland. Cost: \$25 non-member / \$15 EBG members. We will be completing a green roof on a 120 sq ft accessory dwelling. This workshop is intended to provide more detailed information on the components of green roofs as well as experience installing one system. To register for this workshop contact: Russell Holzinger at 503 -961-9010 or IAM@InspiralStudio.com

September 26 thru 29 – Profitable Sustainability Conference / The Future of Business at The Westin Hotel, Seattle. Full details on program and registration at www.nbis.org/conference

Calendar of Events *(continued from page 5)*

October

October 2 from 10am - 4 pm the Solar Washington Association in cooperation with the American Solar Energy Society will host a **tour of solar homes and commercial buildings** all over the state. Visit www.ases.org for national events, and www.solarwashington.org for state tour details.

October 2 & 3 from 10am to 7pm - **Sustainable Ballard Fair**, corner of 22nd and Ballard Avenue in Seattle. There will be speakers, demonstrations, workshops, music, and dance. Contact Vicky Opperman for more information at Vicky@oppermandesign.com

October 2 & 3 at 7pm - **Cajun dance instruction** at Mr Spot's Chai House in Ballard. Sponsored by and benefiting Sustainable Ballard featuring Ted Granger - Treasurer of the Seattle Guild Chapter. (Cajuns of course are well-known environmentalists...just look how thoroughly they use every bit of a hog. No waste.)

October 15, 16, & 17 - Cob Building and Earthen Plaster Workshop at Serendipity Farm with Elke Cole (cobworks.com) & Catherine Burke. Camping and camp kitchen area included. Bring your own food or order lunches and dinners ahead at \$10 extra each. We should have the cob oven fired up for some good bread baking. Potluck and music around the campfire Saturday. Cost: \$90 for one day, \$175 for two days, and \$260 for three days. Contact event organizers Mary Ann Dow & Bruce Carter at 360-394-1739 for more info and registration. www.serendipityfarm.org

October 21 from 7 to 9 pm at the Phinney Center, Seattle - **"Solar Energy for Your Home"** class. Cost \$25/member household, or \$30/non-member household. Call 206-525-3969 for info, or 206-783-2244 to register.

October 21 through 24 - Guild Retreat at Pilgrim Firs in Port Orchard, WA. Come meet your fellow members and learn about Building with Nature! See Page 1 for schedule and registration instructions.

October 25 from 11am to 5pm - **Cradle to Cradle Design Workshop**: Designing for Deconstruction and Maximum Materials Reuse. Seattle Lighting Design Lab, 400 E. Pine St., Suite 100. Cost: \$30 (includes lunch). For more information and to register, go to www.resourceventure.org/calendar.htm or call the Resource Venture at 206-389-7302.

October 26 from 8am to 4:30pm - **Rethink Demonstration Workshop**: How to Deconstruct a Building from Start to Finish. Seattle AGC Education Foundation 2nd Floor, Westlake Rm. 1200 Westlake Ave. N. Cost: \$30 (includes breakfast, lunch, and tour). For more information and to register, go to www.resourceventure.org/calendar.htm or call the Resource Venture at 206-389-7302.

October 27 from 7 to 9pm - **Green Home Heating**, at the Phinney Neighborhood Center in Seattle, in the basement of the Brick Building. Biodiesel, solar, and more: how to reduce your environmental footprint through greener fuel and energy sources. See www.phinneycenter.org for directions.

October 30 from 10 to 4 pm on UW campus, Seattle - **"Solar Home Design"** class. Cost: \$50/public or \$40/UW student. Visit <http://experimental.asuw.org> or call 206-525-3969 for info, or 206-685-3276 to register.

October 31 - Halloween

November

November 2 - **Vote** in one of the most important elections in your lifetime! Also do what you can to get out the vote - make sure everyone you know gets to a polling place, or sends in their absentee ballot.

November 25 - Thanksgiving

Check www.ecobuilding.org (click on Calendar) to stay abreast of events sponsored by Guild Chapters and Members!

About the Guild: The Northwest EcoBuilding Guild is the Pacific Northwest's leading association of residential builders, architects, designers, consultants, and suppliers concerned with ecological building. The Guild's mission is to function as an educational forum to facilitate building practices that protect human health, encourage sustainable resource usage and foster long term economic vitality. To learn more about the Guild and its activities, check out our Web site at www.ecobuilding.org. For membership information go to www.ecobuilding.org or membership@ecobuilding.org. For information on the Guild, go to www.ecobuilding.org or e-mail info@ecobuilding.org. You have received this e-mail since you are a member of the Guild, or you have signed up for Eco-Building Times on our website. If you want to unsubscribe to Eco-Building Times, go to www.ecobuilding.org/about/subebg.htm

